

Different Careers. Different Training.

Four-Year College

What Is It?

Private and public universities and colleges provide you with a well-rounded education, which you can use to secure professional careers.

Cost

2008-2009 average tuition and fees were \$10,193 per year for in-state students at a New Hampshire public university; and \$36,786 per year for a New Hampshire private university (excludes room and board).

What You Get

A Bachelor's degree in a field such as business, arts, education, language, physical, life, or social science, communications, or engineering.

Advantages

Depending on what you study, you are likely to earn more with a four-year degree. You get a well-rounded education. Campus life can be very rewarding.

Disadvantages

Can be tough to get accepted. Takes four or more years to finish. You may not be able to get a job once you graduate. Even with financial aid, costs can be high.

Comments

Although this is a big investment of time and money, once you do so, you can use your degree to qualify for higher paying professional jobs. Don't forget to take the ACT or SAT test, apply early to the schools you like, and arrange for your high school transcripts.

TWO-YEAR COLLEGE

What Is It?

Community and technical colleges offer associate's degrees and technical certificates. Many have transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities.

Cost

Much less than a four-year university, about \$6,000 per year for in-state students.

What You Get

An associate's degree or professional certificate in fields such as business, medical technology, construction trades, information technology, electronics, or criminal justice.

Advantages

Frequently an easy commute, so you can live at home for two more years after high school. Technical programs have good job placement rates.

Disadvantages

Most students work and attend classes, limiting on-campus social activities.

Comments

With open admissions at most community colleges, there's little chance of being rejected from the school of your choice. Junior colleges have entrance standards.

Private Career College and Technical Schools

What Is It?

Specialized education, leading directly to employment. Programs vary from a few months to two years or more.

Cost

Ranges from the very inexpensive for short-term programs to very costly for multi-year residential schools. Don't forget to factor in the cost of equipment.

What You Get

Career-related education, technical skills, hands-on training, and employability skills.

Advantages

You'll get focused, sophisticated training in a wide variety of work situations. This can open many doors.

Disadvantages

Technology changes fast. You'll be challenged to stay on top of your specialty.

Comments

Check out your career or technical school with an accrediting agency before you register. Beware of meaningless—and costly—degree mills.

Apprenticeships

What Is It?

You're hired as a trainee to learn a craft or trade from a craft person or experienced supervisor.

Cost

There may be union dues or licensing fees to pay and your own equipment to buy.

What You Get

Real-world training and experience, as well as entry into difficult-to-break-into trades like plumbing, electrical work, or chef.

Advantages

An excellent way to learn a trade. You'll get paid while you learn and also earn respect as you "learn the ropes."

Disadvantages

You'll probably earn only minimum wage or slightly higher during your training.

Comments

Apprenticeship programs exist for over 700 occupations, according to the US Department of Labor.

There are multiple ways of preparing for your future. Below are some different types of training, costs, advantages, and disadvantages.

Source: Career Success, Labor Market and Career Information, Texas Workforce Commission, <<http://www.lmci.state.tx.us/shared/CareerSuccess.html>>

